

Message

From: Sloly, Peter [/O=OCRPS/OU=EXTERNAL (FYDIBOHF25SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=C7A9E877A2634770A6F1452356237C7E]
Sent: 1/28/2022 12:51:10 PM
To: Steinbachs, John [steinbachsj@ottawapolice.ca]; Ferguson, Patricia K [fergusonp@ottawapolice.ca]; Bell, Steve [bells@ottawapolice.ca]; Dunker, Blair [dunkerb@ottawapolice.ca]; Maloney, Kevin [maloneyk@ottawapolice.ca]; Huneault, Christiane [huneaultc@ottawapolice.ca]; Rheaume, Christopher [rheaumec@ottawapolice.ca]; Lucas, Russell J [lucasr@ottawapolice.ca]
CC: Cleroux, Shawn R [clerouxs@ottawapolice.ca]; Staruch, Peggy A [staruchp@ottawapolice.ca]; Kavanagh, Julie A [kavanaghj@ottawapolice.ca]; Gagnon, Amy [gagnona2@ottawapolice.ca]; McGaraughty, Maeghan [mcgaraughtym@ottawapolice.ca]; Lavigne, Carole [lavignec@ottawapolice.ca]; Fortunato, Maria [fortunatom@ottawapolice.ca]
Subject: Re: Chief's notes

Unclassified

Excellent John - see changes below.

Peter Sloly
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From: Steinbachs, John <SteinbachsJ@ottawapolice.ca>
Sent: Thursday, January 27, 2022, 9:42 p.m.
To: Sloly, Peter; Ferguson, Patricia K; Bell, Steve; Dunker, Blair; Maloney, Kevin; Huneault, Christiane; Rheaume, Christopher; Lucas, Russell J
Cc: Cleroux, Shawn R; Staruch, Peggy A; Kavanagh, Julie A; Gagnon, Amy; McGaraughty, Maeghan; Lavigne, Carole; Fortunato, Maria
Subject: Chief's notes

Unclassified

Good morning.

(Insert Indigenous Land Acknowledgment)

As you all know there is major demonstratoon that will be taking place over the next several days in here in the Nation's capital.

In fact demonstrators have already arrived and we have already started to manage a series of pop up demonstrators in the core over the last 24 hours.

The main demonstations will commence tomorrow and could continue into next week.

We know that there will be demonstrators from across Canada and will include Ottawa residents.

One of the great things about Canada is our Charter right to peacefully demonstrate and have our views heard.

That said, all rights and freedoms come responsibilities and limitations.

Public safety is paramount in all such demo stations - the safety of all the demonstrators - the safety of the city, the community, the residents, the tourists and the businesses - the safety of the Police along with our emergency services and City of Ottawa partners.

The members of our service are duty bound protect the Charter and as such, the OPS with our partners facilitate hundreds of peaceful, lawful and safe demonstrations every year, regardless of the cause.

The demonstrations this weekend will be unique, fluid, risky and significant. These demonstrations are national in scope, massive in scale, polarizing in nature and comes almost two full years into a highly stressful and tragic global pandemic.

There have been many concerns expressed in the community and many questions have been raised about what we can expect.

Here is what we do know so far about the core Freedom Convoy demonstration organizers. They have advised us that this will be a peaceful demonstration. They have confirmed that there will be a large number of trucks and participants and the main planned demonstrations will take place on Saturday and Sunday.

With demonstrations of this scale there are significant risks to be mitigated but that we can not eliminate. For instance we have a major traffic plan to ensure emergency lanes in the core are kept open but with thousands of trucks demonstrating in the downtown core for days we know that there will be major traffic safety issues.

There are unique variables associated to this demonstration that can be influenced but are beyond our ability to fully control. For instance we have been in constant communication with the core Freedom Convoy organizers but there are many other parallel demonstrators who we have not been able to engage with - there are also social media actors locally, nationally and internationally who may or may not come to the demonstrations but who are inciting hate, violence and criminality.

We still do not have a confirmed estimate on numbers of trucks or demonstrators. We do not have an established end date for the demonstrations- they could go thru the weekend and into next week. We do not know all of the parallel demonstrations that may take place and/or the lone individuals who may insert themselves into the mix for a variety of reasons.

We do not know what impact a demonstration of this size, scale and duration will have on public safety or on public health outcomes while we are in this latest phase of COVID.

Based on what do know so far, I can tell you that we have significantly increased the level of local, provincial and national communication and coordination commensurate to the evolving nature of the demonstration. This includes bringing in significantly more police, national security, emergency services and City resources.

Starting today and increasing over the weekend, Ottawa residents and visitors can expect to see a large police and emergency services presence in the downtown core and on major highways and roads.

As the demonstrators arrive in larger numbers today, major traffic delays and congestion will occur.

Over the course of the weekend there will be gridlock in the core and it will impact road usage on a large scale city-wide.

We will do everything possible to maintain emergency routes in the core but we are asking everyone to NOT visit or travel in the downtown core, if you don't need to.

For those of you living or working in the downtown core, we understand your concerns and we are working to lessen the impacts on your lives. But there will be significant impacts.

So please plan accordingly. Try to shop today - anticipate that there will be little to no ability for home delivery services in the core. In some areas close to demonstration sites there may be very limited vehicle, bicycle or even pedestrian access for safety reasons.

The OPS has officers and resources available to provide police services for the rest of the city. That said we ask that you use our 911 communications services appropriately - that you do not make unnecessary service demands during this period - that there may be delays and gaps in services depending on the impacts of the demonstrations.

Over the past week, we have been meeting with our partners to develop an operational plan that will ensure that: we have the most current information and intelligence from all sources. This information and intelligence informs the spectrum of risks, threats and variables. We then constantly update our operational plans to secure the resources in our best attempt to mitigate and eliminate the threats, risks and variables. In an event such as this with its ever evolving fluid and dynamic nature there will never be a perfect plan - and we do not have unlimited resources.

As you will soon hear, we have a variety of well developed and well resourced plans to try to adequately and effectively address the known threats, risks and variables- plans for traffic disruption, parking problems, or more serious issues like damage to property, criminal acts and other violent behaviours.

This includes the ability to gather evidence along the traveled routes, at the demonstration sites and on line/social media.

Let me be very clear, we are prepared to investigate, arrest (if necessary) charge and prosecute anyone who acts violently or breaks the law in the demonstrations or in association to the demonstrations. We have capability and commitment to pursue investigations and prosecutions well after the demonstrations have ended.

This event has drawn a lot of attention from mainstream media, elected officials and on social media. This is an important issue for Canadians no matter where people live or where they personally sit on the spectrum of views.

That said, it is irresponsible to inflame this already volatile situation and, in some cases it may be illegal to express hate or incite criminality and violence.

We have seen in other jurisdictions where such inflammatory behaviors have led to people getting injured, killed or incarcerated. We are doing everything we can to ensure that does not happen here.

We are monitoring all intelligence and coordinating with federal, provincial and local partners to ensure that we are identifying those who could pose a threat.

We have evidentiary teams that will be videotaping all aspects of the demonstration. We will be gathering evidence should there be any acts of violence or unlawful behavior.

We have intelligence assets and investigators, who will be working throughout the entire event and in the days, weeks and months following, should there be any violence and acts of criminality associated to the demonstration.

We have consulted with the Crown Attorney's Office and we are fully prepared, both legally and operationally, to address any risks associated with the demonstration, while continuing to facilitate people's right to protest under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

We have also developed a plan that will facilitate the orderly and peaceful departure from Ottawa at the end of the demonstration.

We ask that everyone who attends is respectful of each other, as well as to area residents and businesses - be respectful to our OPS officers along with our police, national security, emergency services and City of Ottawa partners.

The OPS and our partners will do its very best to keep all people healthy and safe. That said, we have a collective responsibility to keep the community healthy and safe. We have to work together to enable everyone - demonstrators, visitors and residents - to get home safely to their families and loved ones.

We will do everything within our means to enable a peaceful, safe and healthy demonstration - this includes a timely departure of all demonstrators.

I will now hand it over to Deputy Chief Trish Ferguson, who is leading the OPS response to the upcoming demonstrations this weekend.

Deputy Ferguson will provide a more in depth briefing on the planning and operational framework for the demonstrations.